Obtaining of Quarterly report from RCCF, Bangalore on Forest Resources

1099. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government obtain quarterly report, from RCCF, Bangalore on the status of forests in each state in the South;

(b) if so, whether such reports also take into account the satellite imaging of forest resources;

(c) whether the trend of forest growth and exploitation in West Godavari measures up from latest report;

(d) whether Government are aware that tribals have come forward to protect Reserve Forest in Polavaram Range, West Godavari Distt. Andhra Pradesh;

(e) whether Government propose to reward such tribal youth protecting the forests; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No reports are obtained from RCCF, Bangalore regarding status of forests in Southern States on quarterly basis. However, Forest Survey of India periodically monitors actual forest cover of the country on a two year cycle through satellite imageries.

(c) Comparison of State of Forest Reports 1991 and 1993 of Forest Survey of India shows that actual forest cover of the West Godavari district has increased from 843 Sq. km. to 846 Sq. km. during the said period.

(d) to (f) It is policy of the Government to encourage involvement of local people, particularly tribals in protection and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas. Any move by a community in this direction will be welcomed by the Government.

Master Plan for Protection and Environment of Green Cover in Eastern Ghats in A. P.

1100. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Master Plan has been developed for protection and environment of green cover in the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approached any foreign Government for financial assistance to implement a plan to increase forest cover and restrict depletion of forest resources in the Eastern Ghats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). In the Eastern Ghat region of Andhra Pradesh, the district of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam and Chittoor have been identified for the purposes of increasing the afforestation efforts. Afforestation and tree planting activities are undertaken in the concerned districts under the schemes of the State Forest Department and other concerned Departments as also under the schemes of Central Government like the Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Scheme, Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme and Aerial Seeding Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme and Drought Prone Areas Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, etc.

(c) and (d) For Andhra Pradesh, a World Bank assisted Forestry Project has been negotiated and work is expected to commence during the current financial year. The total project cost is Rs. 354 crores. The project would be implemented

over a period of six years. The implementation of the project, which covers the whole State, will increase the areas covered under the afforestation and tree planting activities in Andhra Pradesh including the Eastern Ghat region.

Removal of Timber from East and West Godavari district due to flood in Godavari River

1101. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during Godavari floods, large quantities of valuable timber are removed from forest ranges in East Godavari and West Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Central Government have assured the State Government of additional manpower to man the various check-posts; and

(c) whether Government propose to send observers to the particular area to augment and advise the State Government to check depletion of valuable forest resources with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Sometimes during heavy floods trees standing along the banks of Godavari river are uprooted, which are salvaged by the State Forest Department as drift wood.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Obtaining of Ozone Fund

1102. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been active in the formation of the Ozone Fund;

(b) whether India has obtained any funds from the said Ozone Fund;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial interests are preventing release of funds to develop technology to preserve Ozone layer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Although India acceded to the Montreal Protocol, alongwith its London Amendments on June 19, 1992, it has played an important role since beginning in the negotiations leading to the Montreal Protocol, including formulation of the Ozone Fund.

(b) and (c) So far 228 projects for an amount of US Dollars 9.4 million have been approved for India by the Ozone Fund. The details of projects approved are given in Annexure [See Appendix 171, Annexure No. 23]

(d) and (e) The guidelines for transfer of financial resouces and transfer of technology to developing countries are decided by the Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee, which consists of equal number of representatives from developed countries, administers the Multilateral Fund and ensures implementing of these guidlines. The Executive Committee considers issues within the Protocol and guidelines given by the Parties. All members of the Executive Committee are expected to take a stand for release of funds and transfer of technology to developing countries on objective considerations.

Installation of Pollution monitoring Devices in Towns

1103. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to help the finance State Governments to instal and operate pollution monitoring devices in small and medium sized towns;